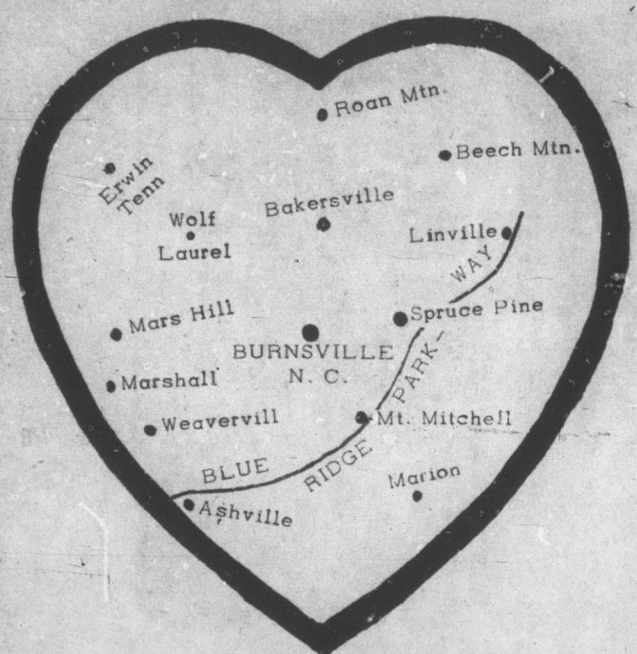


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The "Clean Up" Crew Arrived Early At Parkway Playhouse This Year—Season Opens June 28

# Playhouse To Open With 'Auntie Mame'

Parkway Playhouse in Burnsville will present two musicals, three comedies and a "sentimental drama" this summer, as the theatre provides a weekly series of stage productions for its 26th year.

The bill of plays, which begins June 28 and continues through August 5, will make 1972 a season of favorites—at Parkway. Among the favorites who'll be represented are:

- \*Charlie Brown and all the gang from Charles Schulz's popular "Peanuts" comic strip, in "You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown."

- \*Everybody's favorite aunt, "Auntie Mame."
- \*The crown prince of theatre comedy, Neil Simon, with his play "Plaza Suite".
- \*The all-time favorite story of a family's struggles thru hard times, in "I Remember Mama."
- \*Baseball, in the popular musical comedy "Damn Yankees."

The first production, "Auntie Mame," is the comedy which was a highly successful Broadway play and film starring Rosalind Russell. It will run June 28-July 1.

Charlie Brown and company take over the Parkway stage July 5-8.

Moliere's classic comedy, "The Doctor In Spite of Himself," will be presented July 12-15, followed by "I Remember Mama," July 19-22.

The Neil Simon entry, consisting of three one-act plays focusing on different characters who occupy the same suite in a hotel over a period of time, is scheduled for July 26-29.

The closing production, Aug. 2-5, is "Damn Yankees," the hit musical which ran in New York for more than two years

and was later made into a popular motion picture.

Another favorite will also be on hand for part of the season at Parkway—as he has every year since the summer stock theatre opened.

He's W. C. (Mutt) Burton of Asheville, Greensboro Daily News feature writer and critic who's also a veteran actor.

Burton is definitely slated for a role in "Plaza Suite", and may also be in the cast of "Damn Yankees."

The playhouse, which is operated by the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, offers drama students from UNC-G and other universities an opportunity to participate in a concentrated seven week training program.

They attend classes in various phases of stagecraft and also prepare the six productions.

About 35 students are expected to enroll in the program this summer.

J. Gordon Greene, an assistant professor of drama at UNC-G and director of Parkway Playhouse, noted that the theatre is opening its season earlier than usual this year because most universities, including UNC-G, are now beginning the fall semester in late August, rather than late September.

Under the new schedule the first play will be presented on June 28-July 1. In the past, the first production has generally been scheduled for just after July Fourth.

Greene said the bill of plays this year is the playhouse's first to include more than one musical.

"It gives us and our audience a kind of bonus," he said. "Musicals have always been very popular with audiences in general—and certainly: the Peanuts

comic strip musical has been one of the most highly regarded small musicals on the scene. It has only six or seven characters, but it has been a very popular choice among our students -- which is largely why we decided to do it."

"Then, we always like to close with a big musical, in order to involve all the members of the company in a production at the end of the season."

Greene said "Damn Yankees" was chosen for this final production because the theatre's co-manager, Lauren K. Woods III, who'll direct it, is a "baseball nut and has wanted to do it for a long time." Woods, an associate professor at Morumouth College in West Long Beach, New Jersey, will be in his 10th year with the playhouse.

For the first time, Parkway will have a student serving as guest director. Bob Alpaugh of Tampa, Florida, a Master of Fine Arts drama student at UNC-G, will direct the Moliere comedy as his master's thesis.

Each of the playhouse productions will be presented Wednesday through Saturday at 8:30 p. m.

Tickets are available at two rates: \$2.50 for adults and \$1.25 for those of high school age or younger.

However, special "Bargain tickets" are available in packages of six adult admissions for \$12 and six pre-college admissions for \$6. These tickets will be available only until July 1, and may be exchanged in various ways: one ticket for each show, six tickets for one show, two tickets for each of three shows, or any similar combination.

"All we ask," said Greene, "is that these ticket holders make reservations in advance for the particular shows they want to see."

To order tickets for any Parkway Productions, write to the playhouse box office in Burnsville, N.C., 28714, or telephone the box office at 682-6141 (Area Code 704).

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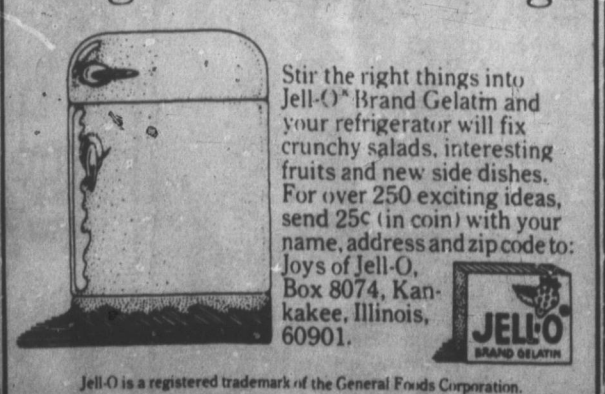


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